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Sunday Independent

IN EVERY WAY THE COMPLETE SUNDAY.

DGOS OPERA IRELAND

presents The Opéra de Marseille production of

TRAVIATA

Opera in three acts

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto Francesco Maria Piave after the novel by Alexandre Dumas fils

'La dame aux Camélias'

Conductor David Lloyd-Jones

Producer

Vivian Coates

from the original production by

Christiane Issartel

Chorus Master Claudio Büchler

Designer Jean-Noël Lavesvre

Lighting Designer Kim Nichols

Choreography

Jacques Fabre

re-executed by Gavin Dorrian

DGOS Opera Ireland Chorus

RTE Concert Orchestra by kind permission of the RTE Authority

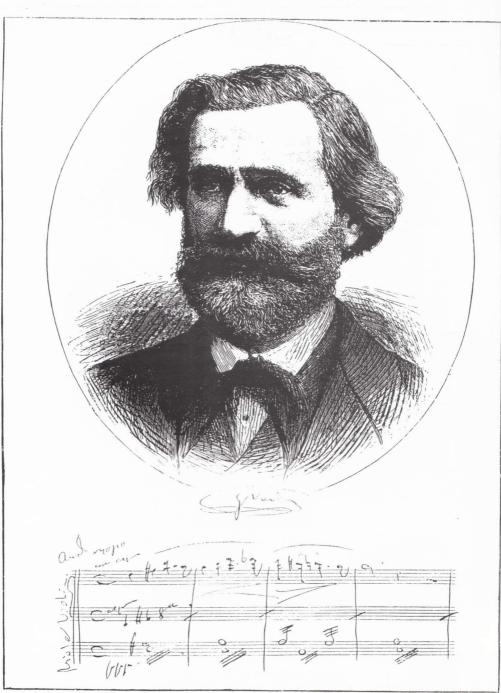
29 November, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 December 1994

There will be two intervals



General Manager David Collopy Artistic Director Dorothea Glatt





Giuseppe Verdi

CAST

Violetta Valery Marie-Claire O'Reirdan

Flora Bervoix, her friend Sarah Fryer

Annina, her maid Margaret Maguire

Alfredo Germont John Fowler

Giorgio Germont, his father Evgenij Demerdjev

Gaston, Vicomte de Letorières Leonardo de Lisi

Baron Douphol Detlef Roth

Marquis D'Obigny Richard Whitehouse

Doctor Grenvil Anthony Smith

Joseph, Violetta's Servant John Scott

Servant to Flora Noel O'Callaghan

Messenger Proinnsias O'Raghallaigh

An Angel Louis Scott

A Child Orla Devine

Répetiteur John Shea

Stage Manager Nora Ní Cosgraigh

Assistant Stage Manager Caroline Rooney

La Traviata was first performed at La Fenice, Venice on March 6th, 1853. The first Dublin performance was at The Theatre Royal, October 14th, 1856.

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE

In the salon of the beautiful demimondaine, Violetta Valéry, a party is in progress. Among the guests is Alfredo Germont. He is introduced to Violetta by Gaston who explains to her that for a year and more the young man has been in love with her from a distance. Invited by Violetta to sing a drinking song, Alfredo launches into the spirited Libiamo nei lieti calici in praise of the gay life. As the guests are about to go dancing in another room, Violetta is stricken by a sudden faintness and a spasm of coughing - a sinister premonition of the fatal disease that already ravages her. She quickly recovers, however. As soon as they are alone, Alfredo tells her of his long-felt love. (Un di felice, eterca.) Violetta at first takes this declaration lightly and advises him that it were best to forget her. Seemingly as an afterthought when Alfredo is about to leave, she gives him one of her camellias with the promise that she will meet him again "when the flower has withered".

When all her guests have gone Violetta's great scena, "Ah, forse é lui" begins. Strangely perturbed by her encounter with the young man, the brittle woman of the world wonders whether this might not be what she has never yet experienced - a serious love (un serio amore). With a bitter laugh she quickly dismisses these wistful thoughts as folly. Her chosen path of frivolous dissipation must now, she knows, be followed to its end. But as towards the close of the brilliant cabaletta the voice of Alfredo reaches her from below her balcony, we know that her resolve is already weakening and that the two are destined to meet again.

ACT TWO - Scene One

Violetta and Alfredo have indeed met again and have been three months together in her secluded country house near Paris. In his aria Dei miei bollenti spiriti Alfredo tells of their happiness in this rural haven of peace. Annina, Voletta's maid, enters. She is returning, Alfredo learns, from Paris where she had been sent to sell most of her mistress's remaining possessions in order to pay the considerable expenses of the establishment. Greatly shocked and humiliated by this unexpected information, he declares he will go himself to Paris at once to raise some money. When Violetta has re-entered, a visitor is announced. It is Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's father, come to rescue his son from, as he imagines, the toils of a mercenary female. From being nonplussed by the dignity with which Violetta meets his charge ('l am a woman, sir, and in my own house"), old Germont is further discomposed when



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she quickly convinces him, with proof in hand, that hers is the money, not Alfredo's, which pays for all this "luxury" he has indicated. He begs her, however to leave Alfredo, pleading that while the family scandal of their association remains, the young man whom his daughter loves will not marry her. Violetta at first violently refuses the strange demand - she would rather die than give up Alfredo. This dialogue proceeds in the form of a duet of great pathos. Finally, convinced by Germont's reminder that as soon as her youth and beauty fade she well have no hold on Alfredo ("What then?" he asks), Violetta consents. In return she asks only a blessing of the old man. Germont goes to wait in the garden for his son. As Violetta is writing a farewell letter to Alfredo, the latter enters in search of his father. Concealing her letter from Alfredo's eyes, Violetta embraces him and in the great outburst Amami Alfredo, quant'io t'amo... Addio! (the climax of the opera) she declares undying love for him. She runs distractedly from the room. A servant soon enters with Violetta's letter. As Alfredo reads the shattering words, Germont pére reappears. Neither his comforting words nor his appeal (Di Provenza) to the prodigal to return to his family can calm Alfredo's frenzy. Believing that Violetta has left him to return to Paris and a former lover, the Baron Douphol, Alfredo dashes off in pursuit with thoughts only of revenging himself on her.

ACT TWO - Scene Two

Paris. The salon in the house of Flora, a friend of Violetta's. The guests are entertained by a ballet featuring Spanish



friends are there. News of her break with Alfredo has already reached Paris so that on the arrival of Alfredo, who is soon followed by Violetta on the arm of Baron Douphol, the atmosphere becomes electric. Alfredo sits down at a card table and, excited by his phenomenal winnings keeps up a run of ironic comments designedly offensive to Violetta and the Baron. The latter reacts, joins the card game and loses to Alfredo. As they rise to go to supper the Baron remarks that he will have his revenge after supper. Alfredo's reply is a veiled challenge to a duel. Violetta, in great agitation, returns to the empty stage. She has sent for Alfredo to warn him to beware of the Baron, a dangerous swordsman. Keeping her promise to his father, she maintains to him that she loves him no more and that the Baron is now her "protector". Enraged by this, Alfredo loudly summons all the guests.

Pointing to Violetta, he proclaims the favours he received from her and with the brutal words *Qui testimon vi chiamo ch'ora pagata io l'ho* ("I call you all to witness that I've paid in full") he throws his winnings at her feet. Old Germont, a witness to the shameful episode, disowns the son who insults a woman thus. The Baron challenges Alfredo to a duel and all the company express their reaction in the concerted finale to the Act.

ACT THREE

The last Act is introduced by the beautiful and poignant orchestral prelude to which the curtain rises on Violetta's bedroom. She is sick and poor, with only the faithful Annina to attend her. It is early morning and carnival time. Dr. Grenvil visits the invalid who is not deceived by his comforting assurances of recovery. To Annina the Doctor confides that her mistress has but a few hours to live.



Illustrations throughout of costume designs for a production in 1855, Museo teatrale alla Scala, Milan

Left alone for a moment, Violetta rereads a cherished letter from old Germont which tells her that after the duel, in which the Baron was wounded, Alfredo had to flee the country; that he now understood the nature of Violetta's great sacrifice and was hastening back to her. "Too late!" she cries and in the very moving soliloguy Addio del passato she pictures her approaching end, lonely and forgotten, her beauty gone. The sounds of carnival are heard outside, and Annina rushes in to prepare her mistress for a visitor. It is Alfredo who implores her forgiveness. Forgetting her sick condition, they plan a new life together far from Paris, Parigi, o cara, but Violetta is now too exhausted even to dress. Alfredo sends Annina to fetch the doctor, but Violetta realises that nothing can help her now. In an outburst, she protests against her fate at dving so young Gran dio! morir si giovine, and Alfredo adds his tears to hers.

Annina returns with Dr. Grenvil and Germont, who gives Violetta his blessing. Violetta asks Alfredo to take a locket containing a miniature of her: should he one day marry it will be for his wife, from one who will be in Heaven praying for them both. The others express their great sorrow, and Violetta suddenly feels her pain has ceased. She tries to greet life once more, but sinks back, dead.

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A PRODUCER'S PERSPECTIVE

Christiane Issartel is the originator of this La Traviata, which she first produced for Opéra de Marseille in 1983. The following are some of her thoughts on the characterisation, which she penned for the original programme.

The anguish and tragedy of loneliness.

Because a young pretty girl, already a little perverse, was offered by a shameless father to a depraved old man, because at the tender age of eleven she already knew the more sordid aspects of life, because this young peasant girl with angelic looks, innate elegance had at her feet all of feverish Paris at the end of the romantic era, and because among her army of admirers, a shy young writer, loved her and dedicated his only work to her, and in turn an inspired musician, also seduced by her, gave a legendary destiny to this prematurely faded flower. Thus could the story of La Traviata be summarised.

However, what is hidden behind this enigmatic ghost, who has come to symbolise sacrificial love? A new image of a dedicated sinner? The model victim of a strangling middle class society? One of the most gracious symbols of legendary love?

In fact, as she appears to us, this woman offers us four lives, four faces: Marie Duplessis (1824 -1847), the 'authentic one', a full-blooded, romantic courtesan, complex and bewitching, Marguerite Gautier, the sometime wilful, but gentle, radiant and regal heroine of the earlier Dumas' novel and nearest to his model, a heroine who has her heart broken by love; Marguerite Gautier (again), this time from the play by the same Dumas, a more theatrical character

who in losing her mystery, gains in pathos; finally, Violetta Valery, the character from the opera, the 'straying one' as the deliberately moralising title of the piece calls her, a more fashionable, watered-down version of the original, without mystery nor any real poetry. But she sings, the music goes straight to the heart and the legend takes off.

In this glittering and refined creature, in this troubled woman whom a bevy of authors stripped of her true nature and covered in goodly sentiment, was there only one little heart ready to be sacrificed at the altar of masculine vanity? Is the truth not something else. hidden behind the veneer and invented feelings, even hidden behind the love and redemption, like in a dream or nightmare? When all is said and done, Marie-Marguerite-Violetta only offers us the painful intoxication of obsessive loneliness. Mingled with the inevitability of illness, is an emptiness where oblivion seems out of reach, oblivion which she



Alexandre Dumas

will seek in laughter, in alcohol, through passing fancies, love, parties and delirium, but which she will only find in death.

Nothing could save her from it, not even this difficult and false love, invented by an author who reveals in his vouthful work an ambivalent truth. In fact, faced with a woman at the same time loved and elusive, Alexandre Dumas confesses to us under two guises through the young ardent hero, awkward and thoughtless, and through the arrogant, narrow-minded and rigid father, who later, at the author's will, stops the young man is his tracks. The moralising father will punish the violent excesses of romantic youth in order to glorify the all-powerful mores of the bourgeoisie. From the outset, he is talking of property, shame, dishonour, offence and revenge and invokes God, in order to justify it all. The librettist and the musician respectfully follow the double author in his incessant race for



A portrait of Marie Duplessis whom Dumas portrayed as Marguerite Gautier in his novel.

virtue and are even more oblivious of the basic truth. Only the music can make us forget the awkward words of condemnation.

Therefore, what does it matter if Armand, now Alfredo, shows this same selfish love and only offers to his victim, the chance of becoming his property?

'If only you were mine'.., 'My Violetta has left her 'past-times' for me, she has forgotten everything for me', 'Here, beside her, I feel myself reborn, oblivious of the universe, I live in heaven.' This great happiness renders him oblivious of her happiness. Luckily, she is happy, but she talks about it too much, and when she does, it is in the past tense. 'I was too happy', she says, when Alfredo's father, without removing his hat, comes to pour out his intolerable request for sacrifice.

What does this jumble of hypocrisy matter, since Marie-Marguerite-Violetta is going to give expression to a sensuous and sorrowful lyricism which will transcend the century? From the brillant and desperate intoxication of 'Sempre libera' (Act 1) to the dismal resignation of 'Dite alla giovine' (Act 2); from the exasperation of the passionate 'Amami, Alfredo, amami quant'io t'amo' (Act 2) to the fateful 'Addio del passato' (Act 3). At the time of her death, the emotion will reach its height and will not be ' tarnished by the living, singing, 'O mio dolor', and thinking as always of themselves. A dignified retort, it is true, from Dumas fils' Armand Duval, when he says 'Dead? My God, what will I become?' What does it matter, this woman alone moves us.

Liberated by money, trapped by love and her love of love, she was sick and sad, or perhaps too cheerful, with a



Maria Callas as Violetta, La Scala 1955.

cheerfulness that is sadder than grief, a multi-faceted woman whose lonely anguish nothing nor nobody could tear down. Let's leave the final word to her.

'So it is, that one day, the hapless wretch fails.

Hopes of a recovery are futile.

Nevertheless, if God in his indulgence is kind,

Man will remain merciless.'

(An inimitable musical poem on the fatal marriage between love and death.)

The production will only aim to restore to the piece its dark musing on gloom and emptiness.

Christiane Issartel, 1983

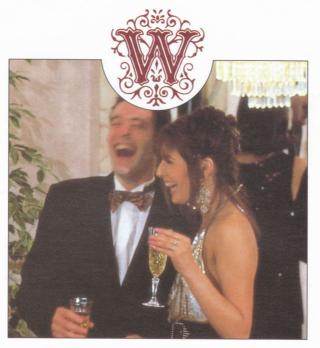
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Violetta in La Traviata tests the singing and acting abilities of a soprano to the limit. Among the most memorable interpreters of this Verdi heroine at the Metropolitan Opera are Lucrezia Bori (during the 1920s and '30s), Licia Albanese (1940s, '50s, '60s) and Maria Callas (1958), all shown above.



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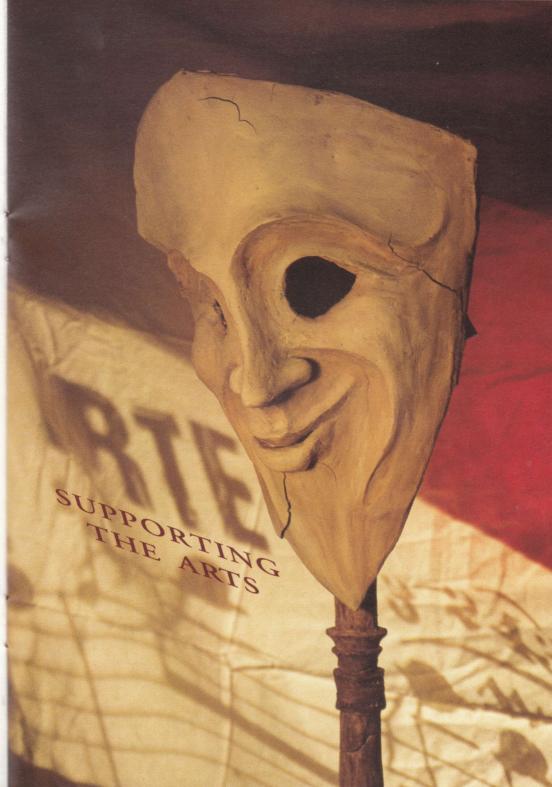
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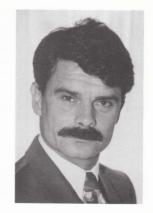
DGOS OPERA IRELAND PRODUCTIONS 1941-1994

Dates indicate the first and most recent DGOS Opera Ireland productions.

Salvatore Allegra Ave Maria Medico suo malgrado	1959 1962	Christoph W Gluck Orfeo ed Euridice	1960, 1986	Gioacchino Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia La Cenerentola	1942, 1991 1972, 1979
Michael W Balfe	1010	Charles Gounod Faust	1941, 1980	L'Italiana in Algeri	1978, 1992
The Bohemian Girl	1943	Roméo et Juliette	1945	Camille Saint-Saëns Samson and Delilah	1942, 1979
Ludwig van Beethove Fidelio	1954, 1994	George F Handel Messiah	1942	Bedrich Smetana The Bartered Bride	1953, 1976
Vincenzo Bellini		Engelbert Humperdin	nck		200000 200000 EC 200000 100000
La sonnambula Norma	1960, 1963 1955, 1989	Hänsel und Gretel	1942, 1994	Johann Strauss Die Fledermaus	1962, 1992
I Puritani	1975	Leos Janacek Jenufa	1973	Der Zigeunerbaron	1964
Benjamin Britten Peter Grimes	1990	Ruggiero Leoncavallo I Pagliacci	1941, 1973	Richard Strauss Der Rosenkavalier	1964, 1984
Georges Bizet				Ambroise Thomas	
Carmen	1941, 1989	Pietro Mascagni		Mignon	1966, 1975
Les pêcheurs de		L'amico Fritz	1952		
perles	1964, 1987	Cavalleria rusticana	1941, 1973	Peter Ilich Tchaikovs	sky
				Eugene Onegin	1969, 1985
Gustave Charpentier	4050	Jules Massenet		The Queen of Spades	1972
Louise	1979	Manon	1952, 1980		
T 0:1		Werther	1967, 1977	Giuseppe Verdi	
Francesco Cilea	10/7 1000	*** 10		Aida	1942, 1984
Adriana Lecouvreur	1967, 1980	Wolfgang Amadeus M		Un ballo in maschera	
D		Così fan tutte	1950, 1993	Don Carlos	1950, 1985
Domenico Cimarosa	1061	Don Giovanni	1943, 1990	Ernani	1965, 1976
Il matrimonio segreto	1961	Idomeneo Il Seraglio	1956	Falstaff	1960, 1977
Claude Debussy		Le nozze di Figaro	1949, 1964 1942, 1991	La forza del destino	1951, 1973
Pelléas et Mélisande	1948	The Magic Flute	1942, 1991	Macbeth Nabucco	1963, 1985
I cheas et Mensande	1970	The Magic Plute	1990	Otello	1962, 1986 1946, 1981
Léo Delibes		Jacques Offenbach		Rigoletto	1940, 1961
Lakmé	1993	Tales of Hoffmann	1944, 1979	Simon Boccanegra	1956, 1974
Lakine	1773	rates of Frontilarin	17 1, 17 7	La Traviata	1941, 1994
Gaetano Donizetti		Amilcare Ponchielli		Il Trovatore	1941, 1988
Don Pasquale	1952, 1987	La Gioconda	1944, 1984	II I TOVACOIC	17 11, 1700
L'elisir d'amore	1958, 1987	La Giocorida	17 1, 170	Gerard Victory	
La Favorita	1942, 1982	Giacomo Puccini		Music Hath Mischief	1968
La Figlia del	17 (2) 1702	La Bohème	1941, 1993		1,00
Reggimento	1978	Gianni Schicchi	1962	Richard Wagner	
Lucia di Lammermoor	1955, 1991	Madama Butterfly	1942, 1993	The Flying Dutchman	1946, 1964
		Manon Lescaut	1958, 1991	Lohengrin	1971, 1983
Friedrich von Flotow		Suor Angelica	1962	Tannhäuser	1943, 1977
Martha	1982, 1992	Tosca	1941, 1990	Tristan und Isolde	1953, 1964
		Turandot	1957, 1986	Die Walküre	1956
Umberto Giordano					
Andrea Chénier	1957, 1983	Licinio Refice		Ermanno Wolf-Ferra	
Fedora	1959	Cecilia	1954	Il segreto di Susanna	1956

DAVID COLLOPY - General Manager

David is the most experienced opera administrator in Ireland. An accountant by profession, he joined Wexford Festival Opera in 1980. During his time there, he played a large part in developing the Festival into an operatic event which now enjoys wide international acclaim. Following a period spent working in a London based design consultancy, he joined the then D.G.O.S. in 1985 as their first professional administrator and has been instrumental in transforming the organisation into a highly professional unit. His commitment to increase the level of private sector funding for the company is reflected in the growth of commercial sponsorship in recent times, funds which assist greatly in fulfilling his ambition to broaden the artform by bringing opera to the greatest number of people.



DOROTHEA GLATT - Artistic Director

Born in Karlsruhe, Germany, Dorothea Glatt is a graduate of Philosphy and Romance languages, and holds a Ph.D. in Musicology from the University of Heidelberg. She has a wealth of operatic experience gained in the operahouses of Frankfurt, Nice and at the Bayreuth Festival, where she is Assistant to Wolfgang Wagner, with responsibility for casting, programme planning and language coaching. She has also worked as a Music Editor for German radio and television, and is a frequent member of the jury of International Music Competitions. Dr. Glatt's most recent position was as Assistant Opera Director at Opéra de Nice where for the past six years, she has worked closely with the symphonic and operatic departments.



CLAUDIO BÜCHLER - Chorus Master

Claudio Büchler, was born in Oslo, Norway, of Argentine parents and was raised in Austria. His musical formation began with lessons in piano and french horn, which he subsequently studied at the University of Vienna, graduating in 1973 with a degree in french horn, composition and conducting. Further studies in orchestral conducting were completed in 1981 under Prof. Otmar Suitner in Vienna. In 1982 he took up the post of administrative and artistic director of the Pro Arte Orchestra in Vienna University, and later worked as conductor and repetiteur in Passau and in Regensburg, Germany. He has also undertaken conducting courses under Leonard Bernstein in Schleswig Holstein and under Gerd Albrecht in Berlin. In 1990, Claudio was invited to Argentina as Guest Conductor and has also worked as musical assistant and conductor on the Aix-en-Provence Festival and in Salzburg. During 1993-1994, he was Assistant Chief Conductor at the Opéra de Monte Carlo. An able linguist, Claudio speaks Spanish, French, German, Italian and English.



DAVID LLOYD-JONES - Conductor

David Lloyd-Jones began his career in 1959 on the music staff at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and has worked with all the major British companies and at Wexford, Bath, Edinburgh, Cheltenham and Leeds Festivals. Founder and former Artistic Director of Opera North, David has conducted over fifty productions during his twelve seasons there, including some rare revivals. He is also Founder Conductor of the English National Philharmonia, with whom he conducts numerous orchestral and choral concerts. His international operatic experience includes Boris Godunov in the former Soviet Union, Die Meistersinger in Karlsruhe, Carmen in Bulgaria, The Queen of Spades and La Bohème for Opéra de Nice, The Love of Three Oranges for New Israeli Opera, Albert Herring and Carmen in Toronto, and Boris Godunov in Santiago. Earlier this year, he conducted concerts with the Ulster Orchestra and a new production of La Rondine at Opera North to great critical acclaim.



VIVIAN COATES - Producer

Born in Dublin, Vivian studied at both Dublin City University and the College of Music. As assistant director, he has worked with Scottish Opera (Carmen, Billy Budd), with Opera North (Le nozze di Figaro, Snakes and Ladders, and with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company (Gondoliers). At home, he has assisted on productions with Wexford Festival Opera, (Zaza, The Devil and Kate), Rigoletto, The Pearl Fishers, Il Trovatore, Tosca and the Irish premiere of Peter Grimes for DGOS Opera Ireland. He has directed numerous productions which include La Traviata for Castleward Opera, Northern Ireland and Lyric International, Cambridge; Dido and Aeneas, for Trinity College of Music, London; Gianni Schicchi for Opera Venture, London, and Revolutions at the London College of Fashion. Other works include Die Zigeunerbaron, Brigadoon, Jesus Christ Superstar and the highly acclaimed new Pirates of Penzance in Kilkenny last May. Recent work includes Eugene Onegin for Opera Northern Ireland, and the RTE Music production of Aida at the Point Theatre.



KIM NICHOLS - Lighting Designer

Kim Nichols started her career in 1975 as a raw assistant electrician, working up to chief electrician/lighting designer with Manchester Library Theatre. She moved to Derby Playhouse, where she was resident until 1985. Since then, she has worked as free-lance lighting designer for various theatre companies, including Liverpool Playhouse, Theatr Clwyd, Manchest Library Theatre, Derby Playhouse, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, and the Unicorn Theatre.

She has also designed national tours for 'Whirligig' and 'Playdays' - both primarily for children's audiences. Earlier this year, Kim lit 'Dawnpath' by Nicola LeFanu, her first opera, which was a very enjoyable experience. Future plans include work with Birmingham Stage Company on 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. This is Kim's second visit to Dublin.



MAIRÉAD HURLEY - Chorus Tutor

Studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music under Rhona Marshall and at UCD from where she graduated with an honours B.Mus. Joined the staff of the College of Music Dublin in 1984 and has been working there since as repetiteur. In 1991 she won a scholarship to study on the repetiteur's course at London's National Opera Studio. An additional grant from the Irish Arts Council enabled her to study with the world-renowned accompanist Paul Hamburger. Since returning to Dublin she has worked for DGOS Opera Ireland as chorus tutor, Opera Theatre Company and Opera Northern Ireland. Has recorded recitals for R.T.E. radio and was official accompanist for their 'Musician of the Future Competition'. Recent engagements include La Traviata for R.T.E., Don Giovanni for Opera Northern Ireland, RTE/Bank of Ireland Proms and Don Giovanni for Opera Northern Ireland.



JOHN SHEA - Repetiteur

John Shea was born in Kingston-Upon Thames and studied at the Royal College of Music Junior Department, Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Music where he won a number of prizes for accompaniment. He has freelanced with the Royal Opera Covent Garden, Glyndebourne, Kent Opera, Opera 80, City of Birmingham Touring Opera, Music Theatre Ulster, Opera Northern Ireland, DGOS Opera Ireland and the Britten-Pears School, as well as working on the Italian premiere of Tippett's King Priam (Musica nel Chiostro, Batignano 1990), the Canadian premiere of Birtwistle's Punch and Judy (Banff MusicTheatre 1991), and the world premiere of James MacMillan's Visitatio Sepulchri (Glasgow Mayfest and Edinburgh Festival 1993). He has also worked at the Wexford Festival Opera, at the European Centre for Opera and Vocal Art in Belgium (and on tour in Prague) the Zwingenberg Festival in Germany and at La Monnaie, Brussels. He last worked with DGOS Opera Ireland on Tosca in 1990.



GAVIN DORRIAN - Choreographer

Although his roots are in Donegal, Gavin Dorrian was born in Glasgow. He studied at The Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and later in London, before joining The Scottish Ballet where he remained for four years. As a dancer he has toured internationally and danced solo roles with The Scottish Ballet, The Iranian National Ballet, The Ballet of the Teatro Alla Scala, Milan, Ballet-Theatre Russillo of the Centre-National Choréographic de Toulouse, France, Vienna Ballet-Theatre and London City Ballet. Based in Dublin, he is principal male teacher to the College of Dance and an executive of the Dance Council of Ireland. He has just completed his fourth season as choreographer to the Wexford Festival Opera and other choreographic credits include the live-action sequences for the feature length film carton Thumbelina, Euripide's The Bachae, for the 1991 Cardiff Arts Festival and Die Fledermaus for DGOS Opera Ireland. He recently completed work on the film version of W.B. Yeats's play The Cat on the Moon, directed by Patrick Bergin.



BIOGRAPHIES

LEONARDO DE LISI - Gaston

Born in Parma, Italy, Leonardo de Lisi studied piano, composition, singing and musicology at the Conservatorio in Padova and later in Parma. He has attended masterclasses under the direction of Elly Ameling, Carlo Bergonzi, Ileana Cotrubas and Lorraine Nubar. His many awards include the Conegliano Veneto prize in 1986, the Grand Prix Maurice Ravel, second prize at the Stuttgart Hugo Wolf competition in 1987, the Grand Prix Gabriel Fauré in Paris, as well as the Nantes Opera Special award for French Repertoire.

He made his operatic debut at the age of 21 in Galuppi's Le Nozze di Dorina in Vicenza. Subsequent roles include Nemorino in L'elisir d'amore at the Teatro Verdi in Padova, Alessandro in Mozart's Il re pastore, and Oloferne in Scarlatti's La Giuditta for the Belcanto Festival, Dordrecht, (Holland). Leonardo has been under contract with Opéra de Nice for the past two years and regularly broadcasts as a soloist on European Radio networks.



EVGENIJ DEMERDJEV - Giorgio Germont

The young Bulgarian baritone Evgenij Demerdjev studied singing with Ressa Koleva at the National Academy of Music in Sofia and since 1991, has been studying with Emma Renzi. In 1991 he became a company member of the Transvaal State Theatre in Pretoria. His roles there included Enrico in Lucia di Lammermoor, Valentin in Faust, Tonio in I Pagliacci, Ezio in Attila, Posa in Don Carlo and the title role of Nabucco. In 1994, he made his European debut at Opéra de Nice, singing Ezio in a new production of Attila. Future engagements include his debut Escamillo in Carmen in Pretoria. Renato in Un ballo in maschera in Rennes, and I Puritani, in Nice, in 1995. 1996 engagements include Il barbiere di Siviglia and Khovanschina in Nantes, Silvio in I Pagliacci for the Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin, Marcello (La Bohème) in Dresden and Boris Godunov in Nice.



JOHN FOWLER - Alfredo

American tenor John Fowler has performed leading roles in many of the world's opera houses and has appeared with many of the great operatic personalities of our day, including Montserrat Caballe, Joan Sutherland and Tatiana Troyanos. A prolific performer, John's American appearances include Jacquino/Fidelio, Rodolfo/La Bohème, Duke/Rigoletto, Les Contes de Hoffmann, Gianni Schicchi, Edgardo/Lucia di Lammermoor all for the Metropolitan Opera, Don José/Carmen, Rodolfo/La Bohème and the title role in Les Contes d'Hoffmann at the Boston Lyric Opera, Romeo/Roméo et Juliette, Madama Butterfly and the title role in Faust for Opera Carolina. European performances include Edgardo/Lucia for Florentine Opera and DGOS Opera Ireland, Romeo/Roméo et Juliette in Zurich, Percy/Anna Bolena in Madrid, the title role in Werther at the Opéra de Nice, appearances in Manon at the Vienna Staatsoper, in Lucia for WNO, in Der Rosenkavalier, Rodolfo/La Bohème, Alfredo/La Traviata at Hamburg and once again in La Traviata in Belfast. This is John's second appearance with DGOS Opera Ireland.



SARAH FRYER - Flora

Sarah Fryer was a specialist music pupil at Wells Cathedral School in the U.K. Further musical studies were undertaken at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and in Florence with the soprano, Suzanne Danco. A busy concert soloist, Sarah has recorded Rachmaninov's Vespers with the Philharmonia Chorus and recently performed Mozart's Requiem in London and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* in Canada. Her operatic roles include Wellgunde in the new production of *The Ring* conducted by James Levine, and 1st Knappe in *Parsifal* conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli, both at the 1994

Bayreuth Festival. Other roles include Nancy (*Albert Herring*) at the Aldeburgh Festival and Second Lady in *The Magic Flute*.



MARGARET MAGUIRE - Annina

Margaret Maguire was born in County Wexford. She received her musical education at Queen's University, Belfast and the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. She has sung operatic roles for Opera Northern Ireland (Inez and Carmen), the Buxton Festival (Néris), the Aldeburgh Festival and a Channel Four documentary (Lady Billows), Opera 80 (Lady Billows), Bath and Wessex Opera (Giovanna), University College Opera (La Mere in Franck's Hulda) and Surrey Opera (Orlofsky and Marcellina). In concert she has sung throughout the British Isles, in major London venues, and also in Spain, Germany and Switzerland. Concert highlights include a St Matthew Passion with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, a Dvorak Requiem in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, a televised Messiah in Belfast and a Mahler 2 in Southampton. Margaret is a recitalist for BBC Radio 3 and for RTE. Last season she sang Giovanna for DGOS Opera Ireland and later this season she sings Lucia (Cavalleria Rusticana) for Surrey Opera.



NOEL O'CALLAGHAN - Servant

Born in Dublin. Studied voice training in College of Music Dublin under Dr. Veronica Dunne and Mr. Peter McBrien. Has sung with DGOS Opera Ireland in Chorus and principal parts. Toured America and Canada with Eily O'Grady and Frank Patterson singing ensemble and solo. Appeared in most light operas with a number of Musical Societies in Dublin, in principal parts. In 1994 sang the part of the Servant in the Bank of Ireland/RTE Proms Production of La Traviata.





PROINNSIAS O'RAGHALLAIGH - Messenger

Proinnsias graduated with honours from the College of Music and Trinity College, Dublin in 1991. As a student of Mary Brennan and Jenny Reddin, he has won many prizes and scholarships both in Ireland and abroad. Since his graduation, he has worked as a chorister and soloist with the National and RTE Chamber choirs, in addition to his work as a choral conductor. Following masterclasses with Maestri Bergonzi and di Stefano, Proinnsias began studying orchestral conducting under the tutelage of the Hungarian maestro Acel Ervin. As a chorister, soloist and conductor he has toured and recorded in Ireland and Europe. This is Proinnsias' fifth season with DGOS Opera Ireland.

MARIE CLAIRE O'REIRDAN - Violetta

Marie-Claire made her operatic debut as Pamina with the Irish National Opera in 1983. Her debut with Welsh National Opera followed in 1984 in Das Rheingold, and she later appeared there as Micaela in Carmen. Appearances in Le nozze di Figaro, Die Zauberflöte and Parsifal for the Staatsoper in Hamburg, were followed by many successful roles with the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf, notably Sophie (Der Rosenkavalier), Susanna (Figaro), Gilda (Rigoletto), Lauretta (Gianni Schicchi), Nerina in Haydn's La Fedelta Premiata and Adina in L'elisir d'amore. In 1988, she made her Bayreuth debut in Parsifal and has appeared there every summer since. In 1990, she sang in Maw's The Rising of the Moon at the Wexford Festival, and in La Rondine at Monte Carlo. Recent performances include the title role in von Flotow's Martha for DGOS Opera Ireland in 1992, Juliette in Roméo et Juliette and Pamina (Die Zauberflöte) for Opera Carolina, and performances of Parsifal at last season's Bayreuth Festival. Marie Claire's most recent appearance with DGOS Opera Ireland was in Spring '94, when she sang the role of Marzelline in Fidelia.



DETLEF ROTH - Baron Douphol

Detlef Roth was born in Freudenstadt, Germany, and studied with Professor Georg Ielden, first privately and then at the Music Academy in Stuttgart. A winner of several prestigious competitions, he won both first prize and the special media and Austrian Radio prizes at the 1992 Belvedere Competition in Vienna. He was subsequently invited to broadcast with Radio Stuttgart, Radio Hamburg and RTE in Dublin. He won a scholarship to pursue further studies in Berlin and in 1993, made his USA debut at the Newport Music Festival and in Boston. So far in 1994, Detlef was awarded the Mozart prize at the Alexander Girardi singing competition in Coburg and most recently, won 3 prizes at the Wagner Voice competition in Strasbourg. Since 1993, he has been contracted to the Staatstheater, Stuttgart.



JOHN SCOTT - Joseph

Born in Dublin and is a graduate of UCD. He is a member of the Palestrina Choir and the RTE Chamber Choir, where he has recently sung solos in the RTE/Naxos recording of A Wedding Bouquet, conducted by Kenneth Alwen. He has sung the role of the Evangelist in Bach's Christmas Oratorio, with the TCD Choral Society. John studies with Dr Veronica Dunne, at the Leinster School of Music and most recently, studied with James King at the Bayerische Staatsoper. He was the 1993 winner of the Tenor Solo Competition in the Feis Ceoil, and has appeared in several musicals, including Carousel and Cats. He is also a choreographer and founder of the Irish Modern Dance Theatre, who recently presented Ruby Red at the 1994 Dublin Theatre Festival. Other recent singing roles include Pirelli in Sweeney Todd and Remendado in Carmen at the NCH.



ANTHONY SMITH - Doctor Grenvil

Anthony Smith was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England and entered the choir of York Minster at the age of eight. He studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music and at the London Opera Centre and his singing teachers include Dame Eva Turner and Otakar Kraus. Whilst at the London Opera Centre, he took part in masterclasses with Tito Gobbi. In 1973, he won the first prize in the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship, and in 1974 took first prize in the Royal Overseas League competition. He has throughout his career sung with Glyndebourne Festival, Opera North and with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Between 1990 and 1994, he was a member of Opéra de Nice, France and in May 1994, made his debut with Opéra Comique in Paris, in Don Pasquale. This is Anthony's DGOS Opera Ireland solo debut.



RICHARD WHITEHOUSE - Marquis D'Obigny

Richard Whitehouse was born in Walsall, England, where he received his early musical training. He made his professional operatic debut in 1987 as Dr Lavender Gas in Menotti's Help, help the Grobolinks at the Buxton Festival. In 1989, he entered the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester after winning a scholarship, and began his vocal studies with Patrick McGuigan. While at the Royal Northern, Richard performed in every opera season. His roles include Demetrius (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Belcore (L'elisir d'amore) and in 1992, he took the title role of the Pilgrim, in the critically acclaimed production of Ralph V.Williams 'The Pilgrim's Progress', for which he was awarded the Robin Kay Memorial Prize for opera-singing. Recent performances include The Traveller, Britten's Curlew River, Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro, The Ferryman (Curlew River) and Second Prisoner in the DGOS Opera Ireland Spring '94 Fidelio. Richard is currently a full-time student at the National Opera Studio, London.



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19 OCTOBER ~ 5 NOVEMBER

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Tragedia lirica in three acts (in Italian) **Giovanni Pacini**(1796 - 1867)

Mayskaya noch'

May Night

Comic Opera in three acts (in Russian) **Nikolay Rimsky-Korsakov** (1844-1908)

Iris

Melodrama in three acts (in Italian) **Pietro Mascagni**(1863-1945)

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Priority: 2 May 1995 General: 1 June 1995

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Marketing:
Accounts:
Admin. Assistant:
Reception:
Box Office Manager:
Box Office Supervisor:
Box Office:

Gerry O'Reilly Ben Barnes Ronan Smith Yvonne Sullivan Martin Keleghan Fionnuala Downes Niamh Martin Anne King Nuala Cooke Kerry Byrne Alan McQuillan Jackie McCormack Liz Molonev Stephen Delaney Debbie McOuillan Susan O'Brien Pat Byrne

Paul Grimes

Megan Sheppard Liam Daly Michael McElhinney Ioe Kiernan Sally Keane Maureen Rooney Marie Murphy Mary Vickers Niamh O'Hanlon Susan Maloney Mary Frances O'Dwyer Ciaran Geoghegan Michael Plunkett David Condron John Delanev Keith Loscher Andrew Peters Tom Rowley Stephen Norton

Deputy Stage Manager:

Stage Manager:

INFORMATION AND SERVICES

BOOKING INFORMATION: The Box Office is open on Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. -7 p.m. for advance bookings. Credit Card Bookings accepted by telephone 6771717. Postal Bookings are processed in order of receipt. Please make cheques payable to Gaiety Entertainments Ltd. and enclose SAE or add postage to your remittance.

GIFT VOUCHERS: May be purchased at the Box Office.

LATECOMERS: In response to general request, latecomers will not be admitted until there is a suitable break in the performance.

FIRE PROCEDURE: In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the staff, who are trained in evacuation procedure, and walk quickly through the nearest Fire Exit, which is clearly marked.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium. Glasses and bottles may not be brought into the auditorium. The use of cameras and tape recorders is prohibited.

KIOSK: The Gaeity Kiosk is istuated in the foyer and is open befre the performance and during the interval. The kiosk stocks minerals and confectionery.

ICES: Ices are sold on each level of the auditorium during the interval. For the benefit of party organisers, orders may be placed in advance.

BARS: Bars are situated on the Parterre, Dress Circle and Grand Circle levels. All bars are open half an hour before the performance and during the interval. To avoid queueing for your interval drinks, you may pre-order your drinks and reserve a table in any of the Bars. The interval order form is displayed in the Foyer and in each Bar. Coffee is available in all the Bars.

At the end of the performance the Bars on the Dress Circle and Parterre levels will remain open. The Gaiety Bars offer an attractive setting for Conferences, Press Receptions, Fashion Shows and Meetings. The Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any alteration in the cast or programme which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause.

i	Forthcoming Attractions At The Gaiety Theathre
	If you are interested in the Gaiety's coming season please fill int he form below and give it

to an usher on duty or send it to: The Gaeity Theatre, South King Street, Dublin 2.

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number	

Millar James S Mr Milofsky Fay Mrs Milofsky Frank Mr Moe Helen A Mrs Moloney Michael Mr Molony Conor Dr Molony Ronan Mr Molony Eve Mrs Montgomery W J Mr Moroney Anne Ms Moroney Michael Mr Mortimer Marie Ms Moylan B A Mr Moynihan John Mr Mulcahy Margaret Ms Mulcair Pamela Ms Murakami Ethna Ms Murphy David Mr Murphy Francis Mr Murphy Marie Ms Murphy William Mr Murphy B J Ms Murphy John T Mr Murray Austin C Mr

Neenan William Mr Neenan Eileen Mrs Neligan David Mr Neville Anthony J Mr New Mary Ms Nolan David Mr Nolan Eamon D Mr Nolan William Mr Nolan William Mr Nolan Brid Ms Negent Michael Mr

O Lonargáin Liam Mr O'Brien Eoin Mr O'Brien F X Dr O'Brien Herman Mr & Mrs O'Brien I Kenneth Mr O'Brien Siobhan Dr O'Buachalla Julia Ms O'Ceochain Gearoid An tAth O'Connell Margaret V Ms O'Connor Nuala Ms O'Connor John & Viola O'Connor Michael Mr O'Dalaigh Tony & Margaret O'Doherty Eamonn Mr O'Donnell Andrew Mr O'Donovan Peter Mr O'Donovan Diarmuid Mr O'Driscoll Thomas A Mr O'Hara Patricia Ms O'Hara Rosalind Mrs O'Hare Anne Ms O'Hare Daniel Dr

O'Keeffe Angela Ms O'Leary Barbara Mrs O'Loughlin-Kennedy Katherine Ms O'Meara Joan Ms O'Meara William Mr O'Neill Ann Ms O'Neill Desmond Mr O'Neill Cathy Ms O'Neill Ioan M Mrs O'Reilly Charles Mr O'Reilly James & Fionnuala O'Riada Padraic Mr O'Riordan Eamonn Mr O'Riordan J D Mr O'Rourke Mona Ms O'Shea Finian Mr O'Shea Mary-Rose

Parlon Patrick Mr Potter D J Mr & Mrs Power Maire Ms Power Laurence Anthony Mr Prendergast Mary Ms

Quigley J A Mr Quigley Kathleen Ms Quinlan Perdita Ms

Read P I Mr Redmond Maire Ms Regan Brian Mr Reid Fergus Mr Reihill Ann Ms Rennison H H Mr Reynolds Brid Ms Robinson Derek Mr Ronayne F Mr Rountree John Dr Rowan Paul E Mr Ruane James J Dr Ryan John M Mr Ryan N M Mr

Shanik Gregor Prof Shelly Denis J Mr Sheridan Gerry A Mr Sherry Mark Mr Sherry Liam Mr Siddiqi Pauline Ms Skelly O D G Rev Smith Joseph G Mr Smyth Robert Rudd Mr Smyth James & Pamela Smyth J W Mr Soese Diana Mrs Stacey Thomas Mr Stafford Marion Mrs Staunton Tom Dr Staveley Joan Ms Stein Edwin J Mr Stephen Jim Mr Stones Willie Mr Strickland Bob Mr Sullivan Brian Mr Synnott D Mrs

Tarpey Patricia Ms Taylor TD Mervyn Mr Tennyson Geraldine Ms Thompson Frank Mr Tiernan Declan Tiernan Brigid Mrs Tierney Martin Mr Tierney Mary Mrs Tipton G Mrs Tittel Dermot Dr Tobin Kieran Mr Tormay Patrick F Mr Torsney Rosemary Mrs Traynor Celine Dr Troy E M Dr Tuomey Laurence J Mr Tynan Ines Ms

Wall Mary Ms Wall William Mr Wallace Colette Ms Wallace Brian Mr Walsh Aileen Ms Walsh Bernadette Mrs Walsh Catherine Mrs Walsh Martin Mr Walsh Tony Dr Walsh Charles Mr Walsh Kevin Mr Walsh Maureen Ms Walsh Nolie Ms Walsh Thomas Mr. Walsh Kevin G Mr Walshe Winifride Ms Ward J Dermot Mr Webb Valerie Ms Whately William Mr Whelan Barbara Ms Whelan John A Mr White John G Mr Woolfe Andrew Dr Wright J F Mr

Young Wllliam A Mr

Opera Theatre Company

presents

Johann Strauss' operetta

Wiener Blut (Vienna Blood)

as

That Dublin Mood

written and directed by

Gerard Stembridge

designed by

Neil Irish

arranged and conducted by

Mark Armstrong

lit by

Paul Keogan

with Ray Barror, Mary Callan Clarke, Jackie Horner, Frances Lucey, James Drummond Nelson and Ivan Sharpe

National Tour

Opening Wexford, Theatre Royal, 28 January 1995 and following to the Gate Theatre, Dublin, Tuam, Tralee, Kilkenny, Limerick, Ballyshannon, Enniskillen.

> Opera Theatre Company 18 Kildare Street, Dublin 2 (01) 6614884 chair Séan Rafferty director James Conway





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(Whether a human year being equal so seven canine years has anything to do with this, we don't know).

However, we have grown rather more rapidly than our tender years would

For a start, we've more than doubled business on our Expressway service. This large fleet of modern coaches provides 4 million inter-city travellers with excellent value for money, and provides us with revenues of the order of £20 million annually.

Then there are our City Bus services in Cork, Galway, Limerick and Waterford. Running seven days a week, morning, noon and night, the total amount of journeys comes to nearly 20 million.

Our Local Bus service covers the length and breadth of rural Ireland, carrying 12 million people to and from work, shops, friends and family.

We also maintain a range of vital social services in both rural and urban areas. For this we receive a £4 million payment from the Government.

And, through the School Bus service, we're responsible for bringing 165,000

children to school every day. This includes 9,000 students who have special needs and we cater for them.

Then, of course, there are the 60,000 tourists and holidaymakers who take trips ranging from one day excursions to two week rours.

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